

DESCENT COHOMOLOGY AND CORINGS

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ABSTRACT. A coring approach to non-Abelian descent cohomology of [P. Nuss & M. Wambst, *Non-Abelian Hopf cohomology*, Preprint arXiv:math.KT/0511712, (2005)] is described and a definition of a Galois cohomology for partial group actions is proposed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Motivation and aims. In a recent paper [13] Nuss and Wambst have introduced a non-Abelian descent cohomology for Hopf modules and related it to classes of twisted forms of modules corresponding to a faithfully flat Hopf-Galois extension. Hopf modules can be understood as a special class of *entwined modules* and hence comodules of a coring [2]. The aim of this note is to show how the descent cohomology introduced in [13] fits into recent developments in the descent theory for corings [10], [4], [6]. In particular we construct the zeroth and first descent cohomology sets for a coring with values in a comodule and relate it to isomorphism classes of module-twisted forms. We then use this general framework to propose a definition of a non-Abelian Galois cohomology for idempotent partial Galois actions on non-commutative rings introduced in [5].

1.2. Notation and conventions. We work over a commutative associative ring k with unit. All algebras are associative, unital and over k . The identity map in a k -module M is denoted by M . Given an algebra A the coproduct in an A -coring \mathfrak{C} is denoted by $\Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}$ and the counit by $\varepsilon_{\mathfrak{C}}$. A (fixed) coaction in a right \mathfrak{C} -comodule M is denoted by ϱ^M . $\text{Hom}^{\mathfrak{C}}(-, -)$, $\text{End}^{\mathfrak{C}}(-)$ and $\text{Aut}^{\mathfrak{C}}(-)$ denote the homomorphisms, endomorphisms and automorphisms of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules, respectively. $\text{End}^{\mathfrak{C}}(M)$ is a ring with the product given by the composition, M is a left $\text{End}^{\mathfrak{C}}(M)$ -module with the product given by evaluation and $\text{Hom}^{\mathfrak{C}}(M, N)$ is a right $\text{End}^{\mathfrak{C}}(M)$ -module with the product given by composition.

For an algebra A , $\mathcal{G}(A)$ denotes the group of units in A , and for an A -coring \mathfrak{C} , $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{C})$ is the set of grouplike elements of \mathfrak{C} , i.e. elements $g \in \mathfrak{C}$ such that $\Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}(g) = g \otimes_A g$ and $\varepsilon_{\mathfrak{C}}(g) = 1$. $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{C})$ is a right $\mathcal{G}(A)$ -set with the action given by the conjugation $g \cdot u := u^{-1}gu$, for all $u \in \mathcal{G}(A)$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{C})$.

More details on corings and comodules can be found in [3].

2. DESCENT AND PARTIAL GALOIS COHOMOLOGIES

2.1. Construction of descent cohomology sets. Given an A -coring \mathfrak{C} and a right \mathfrak{C} -comodule M with fixed coaction $\varrho^M : M \rightarrow M \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$, define the *zeroth descent cohomology group of \mathfrak{C} with values in M* as the group of \mathfrak{C} -comodule automorphisms,

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i.e.

$$D^0(\mathfrak{C}, M) := \text{Aut}^{\mathfrak{C}}(M).$$

Any isomorphism of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules, $f : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$, induces an isomorphism of cohomology groups

$$f^* : D^0(\mathfrak{C}, M) \rightarrow D^0(\mathfrak{C}, \widetilde{M}), \quad \alpha \mapsto f^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ f.$$

The set $Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ of *descent 1-cocycles on \mathfrak{C} with values in M* is defined as a set of all \mathfrak{C} -coactions $F : M \rightarrow M \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$. Since M comes equipped with the right coaction ϱ^M , $Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ is a pointed set with a distinguished point ϱ^M .

Note that for the Sweedler coring $A \otimes_B A$ associated to a ring extension $B \rightarrow A$, $Z^1(A \otimes_B A, M)$ is the set of *non-commutative descent data* on M (cf. [3, Section 25.4]). This motivates the name *descent cocycles*.

Lemma 2.1. *Let M, \widetilde{M} be right \mathfrak{C} -comodules. Any right A -linear isomorphism $f : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$ induces a bijection $f^* : Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M) \rightarrow Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, \widetilde{M})$ defined by*

$$f^*(F) := (f^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ F \circ f.$$

The operation $(-)^$ maps the identity map into the identity map and reverses the order of the composition, i.e., for all right A -module isomorphisms $f : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow N$, $g : N \rightarrow M$, $(g \circ f)^* = f^* \circ g^*$. Furthermore, if $f : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$ is an isomorphism of \mathfrak{C} -comodules, then f^* is an isomorphism of pointed sets.*

Proof. If $F : M \rightarrow M \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$ is a right coaction, and $f : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$ is a right A -linear isomorphism, then

$$\begin{aligned} (f^*(F) \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ f^*(F) &= (f^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ (F \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ (f \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ (f^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ F \circ f \\ &= (f^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ (M \otimes_A \Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}) \circ F \circ f \\ &= (\widetilde{M} \otimes_A \Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}) \circ (f^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ F \circ f = (\widetilde{M} \otimes_A \Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}) \circ f^*(F), \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality follows by the coassociativity of F . This proves that $f^*(F)$ is a coassociative coaction. The counitality of F immediately implies that also $f^*(F)$ is a counital map. Thus f^* is a well-defined map, and it is obviously a bijection as stated. The proofs of remaining statements are straightforward. \square

Lemma 2.1 immediately implies that there is a right action of the A -linear automorphism group $\text{Aut}_A(M)$ on $Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ given by

$$Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M) \times \text{Aut}_A(M) \rightarrow Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M), \quad (F, f) \mapsto f^*(F).$$

Definition 2.2. The *first descent cohomology set of \mathfrak{C} with values in the \mathfrak{C} -comodule M* is defined as the quotient of $Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ by the action of $\text{Aut}_A(M)$ and is denoted by $D^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$.

Since $Z^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ is a pointed set, so is $D^1(\mathfrak{C}, M)$ with the class of ϱ^M as a distinguished point.

2.2. M -torsors. Given a right \mathfrak{C} -comodule M , an M -torsor is a triple (X, ϱ^X, β) , where X is a right \mathfrak{C} -comodule with the coaction ϱ^X and $\beta : M \rightarrow X$ is an isomorphism of right A -modules. Two M -torsors (X, ϱ^X, β) and (Y, ϱ^Y, γ) are said to be *equivalent* if (X, ϱ^X) and (Y, ϱ^Y) are isomorphic as comodules. Equivalence classes of M -torsors are denoted by $\text{Tors}(M)$. $\text{Tors}(M)$ is a pointed set with the class of the M -torsor (M, ϱ^M, M) as a distinguished point. Since $\text{Tors}(M)$ is a set of isomorphism classes of comodules which are isomorphic to M as modules, one obtains the following description of $\text{Tors}(M)$.

Proposition 2.3. *For all \mathfrak{C} -comodules M , there is an isomorphism of pointed sets*

$$D^1(\mathfrak{C}, M) \simeq \text{Tors}(M).$$

Proof. Explicitly, the isomorphism is constructed as follows. Given a coaction $F : M \rightarrow M \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$, consider an M -torsor $T(F) := (M, F, M)$. Conversely, given an M -torsor (X, ϱ^X, β) , define the coaction on M ,

$$D(X, \varrho^X, \beta) := \beta^*(\varrho^X) = (\beta^{-1} \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}) \circ \varrho^X \circ \beta$$

(cf. Lemma 2.1). \square

2.3. Module-twisted forms. For k -algebras A and B , fix a (B, A) -bimodule Σ and a right B -module N . A right B -module P is called a Σ -twisted form of N in case there exists a right A -module isomorphism $\phi : P \otimes_B \Sigma \rightarrow N \otimes_B \Sigma$. Σ -twisted forms (P, ϕ) , (Q, ψ) of N are said to be *equivalent* if P and Q are isomorphic as right B -modules. The equivalence classes of Σ -twisted forms of N are denoted by $\text{Twist}(\Sigma, N)$. $\text{Twist}(\Sigma, N)$ is a pointed set with the class of $(N, N \otimes_B \Sigma)$ as a distinguished point

2.4. Descent cohomology and the Galois-comodule twisted forms. Recall that a right \mathfrak{C} -comodule Σ is called a *Galois comodule* or (\mathfrak{C}, Σ) is called a *Galois coring* in case Σ is finitely generated and projective as an A -module and the evaluation map

$$\text{Hom}^{\mathfrak{C}}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{C}) \otimes_B \Sigma \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}, \quad f \otimes s \mapsto f(s),$$

is an isomorphism of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules. Here and in the remainder of this subsection B is the endomorphism ring $B := \text{End}^{\mathfrak{C}}(\Sigma)$.

Theorem 2.4. *Let Σ be a Galois right \mathfrak{C} -comodule that is faithfully flat as a left B -module. Then, for all right B -modules N , there is an isomorphism of pointed sets*

$$D^1(\mathfrak{C}, N \otimes_B \Sigma) \simeq \text{Twist}(\Sigma, N),$$

where $N \otimes_B \Sigma$ is a comodule with the induced coaction $N \otimes_B \varrho^\Sigma$.

Proof. First recall that by the Galois comodule structure theorem [10, Theorem 3.2] (cf. [3, 18.27]) the functors $\text{Hom}^{\mathfrak{C}}(\Sigma, -)$ and $- \otimes_B \Sigma$ are inverse equivalences between the categories of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules and right B -modules. Take any right B -module N . Note that $\text{Tors}(N \otimes_A \Sigma)$ are \mathfrak{C} -comodule isomorphism classes of comodules which are isomorphic to $N \otimes_B \Sigma$ as right A -modules, while $\text{Twist}(\Sigma, N)$ are isomorphism classes of B -modules P such that $P \otimes_B \Sigma$ is isomorphic to $N \otimes_B \Sigma$ as a right A -module (and hence as a \mathfrak{C} -comodule, with induced coactions). Since $- \otimes_B \Sigma$ is an equivalence, there is an isomorphism of pointed sets $\text{Tors}(N \otimes_A \Sigma) \simeq \text{Twist}(\Sigma, N)$, and the assertion follows by Proposition 2.3 \square

2.5. Beyond faithfully flat and finite Galois comodules. Start with two algebras A and B , an A -coring \mathfrak{C} and a (B, A) -bimodule Σ with a left B -linear right \mathfrak{C} -coaction $\varrho^\Sigma : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$. This defines the functor $-\otimes_B \Sigma : \mathbf{M}_B \rightarrow \mathbf{M}^\mathfrak{C}$, where \mathbf{M}_B is the category of right B -modules and $\mathbf{M}^\mathfrak{C}$ is the category of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules. If this functor is an equivalence, then the same reasoning as in the proof of Theorem 2.4 yields an isomorphism of pointed sets

$$D^1(\mathfrak{C}, N \otimes_B \Sigma) \simeq \text{Twist}(\Sigma, N),$$

where $N \otimes_B \Sigma$ is a comodule with the induced coaction $N \otimes_B \varrho^\Sigma$.

Let $B = \text{End}^\mathfrak{C}(\Sigma)$. For Galois comodules which are finitely generated and projective as right A -modules but *are not* faithfully flat as B -modules sufficient conditions for $-\otimes_B \Sigma$ to be an equivalence are found in [1, Theorem 4.6]. In particular $D^1(\mathfrak{C}, N \otimes_B \Sigma) \simeq \text{Twist}(\Sigma, N)$, for a *cleft bicomodule* Σ for a right coring extension \mathfrak{D} of \mathfrak{C} provided \mathfrak{D} has a grouplike element (cf. [1, Definition 5.1, Corollary 5.5]). For Galois comodules in the sense of Wisbauer [15] (i.e. comodules Σ such that the map of functors $\text{Hom}_A(\Sigma, -) \otimes_B \Sigma \rightarrow - \otimes_A \mathfrak{C}$, $\phi \otimes s \mapsto (\phi \otimes_A \mathfrak{C})(\varrho^\Sigma(s))$ is a natural isomorphism, no finiteness assumption on Σ_A) the functor $-\otimes_B \Sigma : \mathbf{M}_B \rightarrow \mathbf{M}^\mathfrak{C}$ is an equivalence if and only if the functor $-\otimes_B \Sigma : \mathbf{M}_B \rightarrow \mathbf{M}_A$ is comonadic (cf. [1, Section 1]).

Even more generally, Σ -twisted forms can be defined if the algebra B is non-unital (e.g. B can be an ideal in $\text{End}^\mathfrak{C}(\Sigma)$). If B is *firm* in the sense that the product map $B \otimes_B B \rightarrow B$ is an isomorphism, and Σ is a firm B -module, then in the case of *infinite comatrix corings* the conditions for $-\otimes_B \Sigma$ to be an equivalence are given in [11, Theorem 5.9], [12, Theorem 4.15] (cf. [7, Theorem 1.3]).

2.6. Comparison with the results of [13]. To a given Hopf algebra H and a right H -comodule algebra A , one associates an A -coring $\mathfrak{C} := A \otimes_k H$ with the obvious left A -action, diagonal right A -action and the coproduct and counit $A \otimes_k \Delta_H$ and $A \otimes_k \varepsilon_H$ (cf. [3, 33.2]). The category of (A, H) -Hopf modules is isomorphic to the category of right \mathfrak{C} -comodules (cf. [2, Proposition 2.2]). Since A is a right H -comodule algebra, it is an (A, H) -Hopf module, hence a \mathfrak{C} -comodule. The endomorphism ring $\text{End}^\mathfrak{C}(A)$ can be identified with the subalgebra of coinvariants $B := \{b \in A \mid \varrho^A(b) = b \otimes 1\}$. A is a Galois \mathfrak{C} -comodule if and only if $B \subseteq A$ is a Hopf-Galois H -extension. With these identifications in mind, the definition of the descent cohomology in [13] is a special case of Definition 2.2, [13, Lemma 2.2] can be derived from Lemma 2.1, [13, Theorem 2.6] follows by Theorem 2.4, while [13, Proposition 2.8] is a special case of Proposition 2.3.

2.7. Galois cohomology for partial group actions. As the theory of corings covers all known examples of Hopf-type modules, such as Yetter-Drinfeld modules, Doi-Koppinen Hopf modules, entwined and weak entwined modules, the results of the present note can be easily applied to all these special cases (cf. [3] for more details). One of the special cases of the descent cohomology for corings is that of partial Galois actions for non-commutative rings studied in [5] (cf. [9]). In this section we propose to use the descent cohomology to define the Galois cohomology for partial group actions, thus extending the classical Galois cohomology [14, Section I.5].

Take a finite group G and an algebra A . To any element $\sigma \in G$ associate a central idempotent $e_\sigma \in A$ and an isomorphism of ideals $\alpha_\sigma : Ae_{\sigma^{-1}} \rightarrow Ae_\sigma$. Following [5] we

say that the collection $(e_\sigma, \alpha_\sigma)_{\sigma \in G}$ is an *idempotent partial action* of G on A if $Ae_1 = A$, $\alpha_1 = A$ and, for all $a \in A$, $\sigma, \tau \in G$,

$$\alpha_\sigma(\alpha_\tau(ae_{\tau^{-1}})e_{\sigma^{-1}}) = \alpha_{\sigma\tau}(ae_{(\sigma\tau)^{-1}})e_\sigma,$$

(see [8, Definition 1.1] for the most general definition of a partial group action). Given an idempotent partial action $(e_\sigma, \alpha_\sigma)_{\sigma \in G}$ of G on A , define the invariant subalgebra of A ,

$$A^G := \{a \in A \mid \forall \sigma \in G, \alpha_\sigma(ae_{\sigma^{-1}}) = ae_\sigma\}.$$

The extension $A^G \subseteq A$ is said to be *G-Galois* if and only if the map

$$A \otimes_{A^G} A \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma, \quad a \otimes a' \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \in G} a\alpha_\sigma(a'e_{\sigma^{-1}})v_\sigma$$

is bijective. Here v_σ denotes the element of $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma$ which is equal to e_σ at position σ and to zero elsewhere. For example, if there exists a convolution invertible right colinear map $k(G) \rightarrow A$, where $k(G)$ is the Hopf algebra of functions on G , then $A^G \subseteq A$ is a G -Galois extension known as a *cleft extension* [1, Section 6.5].

By [5, Proposition 2.2] (or as a matter of definition), $(e_\sigma, \alpha_\sigma)_{\sigma \in G}$ is an idempotent partial action of G on A if and only if $\mathfrak{C} := \bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma$ is an A -coring with the following A -actions, coproduct and counit:

$$a(a'v_\sigma)a'' = aa'\alpha_\sigma(a''e_{\sigma^{-1}})v_\sigma, \quad \Delta_{\mathfrak{C}}(av_\sigma) = \sum_{\tau \in G} av_\tau \otimes_A v_{\tau^{-1}\sigma}, \quad \varepsilon_{\mathfrak{C}}(av_\sigma) = a\delta_{\sigma,1},$$

for all $a, a', a'' \in A$ and $\sigma \in G$. Furthermore, the extension $A^G \subseteq A$ is G -Galois if and only if $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma$ is a Galois coring (with respect to the grouplike element $\sum_{\sigma \in G} v_\sigma$). Following [5, Definition 2.4], a right A -module M together with right A -module maps $(\varrho_\sigma : M \rightarrow M_\sigma)_{\sigma \in G}$ is called a *partial Galois descent datum*, provided $\varrho_1 = M$ and each of the ϱ_σ restricted to $Me_{\sigma^{-1}}$ is an isomorphism. In view of [5, Proposition 2.5], partial Galois descent data on a right A -module M are in bijective correspondence with descent cycles $Z^1(\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma, M)$. In particular, for any right A^G -module N , there is a partial Galois descent datum

$$M = N \otimes_{A^G} A, \quad \varrho_\sigma : N \otimes_{A^G} A \rightarrow N \otimes_{A^G} Ae_\sigma, \quad n \otimes a \mapsto n \otimes \alpha_\sigma(ae_{\sigma^{-1}})e_\sigma.$$

This is simply the right \mathfrak{C} -coaction induced from the coaction on A given by the grouplike element $\sum_{\sigma \in G} v_\sigma$. A *partial Galois cohomology* of the G -Galois extension $A^G \subseteq A$ with values in the automorphism group $\text{Aut}_A(M)$ of the right A -module $M = N \otimes_{A^G} A$ is defined as

$$H^i(G, \text{Aut}_A(M)) := D^i\left(\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma, M\right), \quad i = 0, 1.$$

By Theorem 2.4, if A is a faithfully flat A^G -module, then $H^i(G, \text{Aut}_A(M))$ describes equivalence classes of A -twisted forms of N .

As an example take $N = A^G$. In this case $M = A$ and the automorphism group $\text{Aut}_A(A)$ can be identified with the group of units $\mathcal{G}(A)$ and $\text{Aut}^{\mathfrak{C}}(A)$ can be identified with $\mathcal{G}(A^G)$. Furthermore, there is a bijective correspondence between right coactions of $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma$ on A and the set of grouplike elements in $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma$ (cf. [2, Lemma 5.1]).

In this way we obtain

$$H^0(G, \mathcal{G}(A)) = \mathcal{G}(A^G), \quad H^1(G, \mathcal{G}(A)) = \mathcal{G} \left(\bigoplus_{\sigma \in G} Ae_\sigma \right) / \mathcal{G}(A),$$

where $\mathcal{G}(A)$ acts on A from the right by conjugation as in Section 1.2.

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